

HF Band Operating Characteristics

10 meters- daytime only - needs high Solar Flux Index (SFI 100+) - morning USA, EU / AF on very good days, SA all day - SA most reliable DX on 10 because N-S works best, OC and AS in afternoon.

15 Meters - similar to 10 meters but open much more often - daily.

20 Meters - similar to 15 meters and reliable. Will stay open after dark to EU, then AS and OC

40 Meters - Night band - same pattern of propagation moving from East to West like day bands, but during darkness.

80 Meters - Night band - same as 40 but lots harder for DX

160 Meters - Night band - really tough - band will be good to some area for 5 minutes then gone. A special breed of nuts works 160.

All the above is very very general. Changes with daily change in SFI. Changes during year as length of day/night changes. Use a grey line map. Day bands must have all daylight between contact points. Night bands must have all dark. Exceptions exist. I could go on for days.

A really good idea. Use the "Reverse Beacon Network" to see what's being heard in W6 land. A reverse beacon is a broadband receiver at a specific location which receives and decodes CW signals and posts what they are hearing to this network. You can see real time what other stations are hearing on different bands (not just what someone decides to post). You can determine a pattern on whats being heard and when.

<http://www.reversebeacon.net/>

Fast Start info. Click on Skimmers / Simple List and select a west coast station to see what they're hearing...such as N6NC. Up pops calls, frequencies and DB above noise level of what the skimmer is hearing.

Just the tip of the iceberg with the RBN. Heck of a tool for DXers.

Hope this helps. I'd be happy to discuss more propagation if you have questions.
73, Don

Get Involved with SBARA...

...come to a monthly meeting

Our regular meetings take place the second Friday of at 7pm our meeting social begins with the monthly meeting starting at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether you are a member. Bring a friend! Or if you're thinking about becoming a ham, come and learn about the hobby!

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Special Points of Interest

February Meeting Highlights
March Contests

Monthly Meeting Highlights

Albert KJ6CHW our club president opened the meeting with general introductions and interesting news from members. Bernhard AE6YN said he would be going to Hawaii in February and hopes to get on the air with his portable equipment. Don N6DA said he is also going to Hawaii to work the KH6LC contest station for the ARRL CW DX contest on the weekend of February 16th (Secretary note: I talked to Don a few days ago and he said they made +7000 QSOs and estimate they place 3rd. Congratulations!) Kit Blanke WA6PWW gave a status report on the WA6PWW repeater. The 70 cm repeater is working but the 2 meter repeater is suffering intermod. Kit thinks it's powerline RFI and plans to go back up to work on it soon. Debra AG6HJ is coordinating speakers; if you would like to give a presentation or know someone who might please contact her. J.J. NW6J is seeking members to form a contesting and DXing special interest group. If you are interested contact J.J.

For the talk we had Brian H. Day of NASA AMES give a presentation on his studies of our Moon's atmosphere. The atmosphere is very thin, composed of trace molecules and dust and is dynamic with molecules and dust ejected from meteor impacts and molecules such as water freezing on the surface at the poles. For part of Brian's work, he would like to monitor the frequency of meteor impacts on the Moon and we can help. How? One of the tools is amateur radio meteor scatter. When there is meteor scatter radio propagation caused by near Earth meteors, the chance of concomitant impacts on the Moon are high. For details please see Brian's talk hosted on our club website [http://sbara.org/presentations/Exploring The Lunar Environment.pps](http://sbara.org/presentations/Exploring%20The%20Lunar%20Environment.pps)



February Raffle Winners!!

W6GEM Scarf: Oliver KB6BA and Valerie
Extra class study guide: Elaine KJ6ADC
Tool set: Elaine KJ6ADC
DBJ-2 roll up j-pole: Don ND6A
MFJ swr meter: Gene
Battery charger: Gene

February Meeting Raffle Winners!!



SBARA to Support 2013 Primavera Bicycle Event

SBARA has been asked to provide radio support for the Primavera bicycle Ride on Sunday April 21, 2013. The bike ride starts and ends at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont, travels south to Ed Levin Park, East/North up Calaveras Rd to Sunol, East through southern Pleasanton and Livermore to the top of the Altamont Pass then west back through central Livermore and Pleasanton, over the Dublin grade next to 580, south down Palomares Rd. to Niles Canyon and back to Logan High School.

There are options for rides of 25,40,60 and 100 miles. We need to cover 5 aid stations, plus net control and as many SAG vehicles as possible, up to 17. The most important SAG areas to cover with Ham Radio are Calaveras Rd and Palomares Canyon as cell phones do not work there. For additional information see: <http://www.ffbc.org/primavera/>

An HT with any outside the car antenna will work for SAG.

An HT with a rubber ducky and 11 hours of battery will suffice at all the aid stations. We will be using the 147.045+ repeater on Sunol ridge. Except in the area of Ed Levin where we will use W6MLP 145.43-

Morning only or afternoon only shifts are available. Contact Tony Flusche at: ab6br@arrl.net or you may call him at: 510-247-3220.




Amateur Radio Monthly Contest Calendar

March 2013

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 2 to 2400Z, Mar 3
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 9 to 1900Z, Mar 10
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 10
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 10 to 0100Z, Mar 11
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Mar 16
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 17
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 21
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 30 to 2400Z, Mar 31

Exploring the Lunar Environment

Presentation by Brian Day NASA LADEE Mission E/PO Lead

 **NASA LUNAR SCIENCE INSTITUTE** **Exploring the Lunar Environment**

A new generation of robotic lunar explorers is revolutionizing our understanding of the Moon.



We now recognize the Moon as a dynamic world with surficial and internal volatiles, active geology, and complex interactions with space weather. All of these could contribute to a fascinating lunar atmospheric environment.



**Editor Note: The Lunar Presentation can be viewed on our Website. The SBARA URL is—
[http: www.sbara.org/](http://www.sbara.org/) Then click on the Presentations URL on the left sidebar. Follow this URL to the Presentation—
http://sbara.org/presentations/Exploring_The_Lunar_Environment.pps**



SBARA VE Testing Schedule

Exams will be administered at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont. Contact: Greg Miller, wy6p at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee, bring a photo ID. Walk-ins allowed.

Exam sessions are conducted by SBARA VE volunteers working under the direction of the FCC. There is a charge for taking the exam. The exam fee is set by the Volunteer Exam Coordinator. SBARA's Fee is \$15.00

Tri-City VE Session Dates 2013

Sat Mar 9, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
 Tue Apr 9, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
 Sat May 11, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
 Tue Jun 11, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
 Sat Jul 13, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
 Tue Aug 13, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
 Sat Sep 14, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
 Tue Oct 8, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
 Sat Nov 9, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
 Tue Dec 10, 2013, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm



The SBARA Net Meets....

Every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW (currently N6IMS) repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled)

103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net.

We need net control operators. If you'd like

to be net control, let us know during the next net.

—... ..—

Bernhard AE6YN

The Slow CW Net Meets....

Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm, Thursday on 144.230 MHz
 Sunday on 7.057MHz +/- 3 kHz

You need an "allmode" (i.e. not just an FM) radio in order to follow.

The net has now its own e-mail address. Please contact us here:

"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at google-groups.com>

—... ..—

Bernhard AE6YN

Repeater Information

WA6PWW— 147.015 + 600Khz, PL 103.5
 WA6PWW—223.900— 500Khz, PL 107.2
 WA6PWW—442.600

+5Mhz, PL107.2
 K6AIR—146.940— 600Khz, PL 123.0
 K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES Net Meeting— Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30pm on 147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5

SBARA Weekly Nets— Voice and CW Action!!

Upcoming SBARA Events

SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.



**March 8th, 2013 at 7:30pm
Hurricane Electric, Fremont**

Amateur License Exams

ARRL VEC- February 16th @ 9:00 am
at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm
Springs Blvd. Fremont.

Contact: Bernhard, ae6yn at arrl dot net
for info. \$15 fee.

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
P.O. Box 8401
Fremont, Ca.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE